National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five year. The latest two such surveys were conducted in 1993-94 (NSS 50th round) and 1999-2000 (NSS 55th round). The percentage of persons living below the poverty line is' estimated as 35.97 per cent in 1993-94 and 26.10 per cent in 1999-2000. During the Ninth Plan period, poverty has been estimated only for the year 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) There is a three-pronged action to allevate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are: (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.

Annual Plan Allocation for Punjab

4628. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the annual Plan outlay allocated for Punjab during the current year;

(b) whether the State Government has made any demand to increase the allocation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Annual Plan outlay of Punjab for the year 2002-03 has not yet been finalized.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Loan-Grant Ratio in the Central Plan Assistance

4629. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments, particularly Rajasthan, have proposed any changes in the loan-grant ratio in the Central Plan Assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and